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The Maryland Fruit Grower

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Edited by the Secretary, A. F. Vierheller, Extension Horticulturist
College Park, Maryland.

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THE FORTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Maryland State Horticultural Society was one of the best attended that has ever been held, with standing room at some sessions. Each speaker was excellent and live problems were discussed. The sessions opened on January 5th with a sound movie, "War on Wear", which showed in detail how to lubricate various pieces of farm machinery.

Dr. L. P. Batjer, U. S. Horticultural Station, Beltsville, Maryland, stated that the labor situation may be tight, and blossom-thinning might be one way out of the difficulty. He has worked with blossom-thinning for several years, having started out to change the bearing year of biennial-bearing varieties, also to try to completely destroy the crop in light years, in orchards where codling moth was very serious. Killing out the crop by blossom removal would starve out the moths. His earlier work using 1/3 pound dinitro powder and one gallon of oil per one hundred gallons of spray, applied in cluster-bud stage showed that where the spray reduced the fruit-set sufficiently, the bearing year might be changed; and also it was possible to completely defruit trees by repeated sprays and final hand-thinning of remaining fruits. In his present experiments, Elgetol with no oil seems to be a better spray. The dinitro spray burned the blossom stems, but Elgetol merely destroys the flower parts. He found that one apple set out of every two spurs (one fruit in every twelve flowers) gave a very heavy set, but one apple set out of every six spurs (one in thirty-six) was more desirable, giving moderate crop, good size, and tendency toward annual bearing. Spraying must be timed right, usually when center blossom first opens, and there is no effect if sprayed after blossom is pollinated. In orchard practice, spray on first day of full bloom. This kills early bloom and allows side blossoms to set as all unopened blossoms are not killed. He suggested 4/5 of a quart per 10 or one gallon of Elgetol per 500 gallons of spray. For less vigorous trees, 3/5 of a quart per 100 or three quarts per 500 gallons of spray is sufficient. The spray has worked well on York, Duchess, Transparent and Golden Delicious but was not advised on Delicious, Winesap, Jonathan and like annual-bearing varieties. Some work in New York indicated that Wealthy can be caused to bear annually by blossom spraying. Some figures covering the work done by Dr. Batjer showed in general that the one gallon per 500 gallon spray on vigorous trees caused reduction in yield under the unsprayed trees of York and Transparent varieties, but increased the percentage of larger-sized fruit, and also tended toward annual bearing. As precautions, it was stressed that timeliness, strength of spray and

care in spraying proper varieties are important, also that the spray does not kill all blossoms that it hits. Little work has been done with peach blossom-thinning, but a method used in Georgia was described, where the blossoms in balloon-stage are whipped off with a broom made of dogwood branches. The trees so thinned don't look so good for awhile, but two hundred trees can be thinned per day by one worker. Hand-thinning must be done later. Also, the use of a rubber mallet, to jar the branches at pit-hardening stage, was explained, to be followed later by hand-thinning. A wire broom for blossom-thinning was shown. This was made from a piece of broom-handle with spring steel wires twelve inches long attached. These wire brooms are made by Peerless Manufacturing and Gin Supply Co., Fort Valley, Georgia. Price $1.35 each. Dr. Batjer had no new ideas to present, regarding havest sprays, but told growers to write for Circular 685, "Harvest Sprays for Control of Fruit Drop". This Circular may be had by writing Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. Price five cents per copy. Send cash, not stamps.

Mr. Carroll Miller, Secretary Appalachian Apple Service, spoke in place of Mr. John Chandler, Secretary, National Apple Institute. Mr. Miller stated that it is good for growers to be organized, to consult with Government agencies, and to advise these agencies. Such contacts make the growers a part of the Government which is proper, since growers are food producers. There is a trend toward nationalism and internationalism. Government is in business. The average grower has no chance to be heard so he lets Government do things for him and quits struggling for himself. Congress now indicates its desires, provides funds, and sets up in business. Individual growers could not oppose the spray residue regulations several years ago. But last season, due to organized voice, they obtained increased price on established ceilings. Miller warned of Government aid, terming it habit-forming. Perhaps we can force the Government to buy our product, and insist on more and more cash for less and less quality and soon break down our distribution system. Such federal control over our product carries the weak along with the efficient producers. Since Government has entered business, business must enter Government. The fruit growers must work with their senators, representatives, and men in the Government bureaus, to make their wants known.

Dr. Frank W. Parker, Head, Division of Soil and Fertilizer Investigations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, reported that war had hit the entire fertilizer industry, but fortunately we have a large nitrogen industry in by-products and synthetic manufacture. Our domestic industry in phosphoric acid is in good condition and we are producing nearly three-fourths of our potash supply. During 1944 there probably will be a considerable increase in the synthetic nitrogen supply, and phosphoric acid manufacture will run about double the amount produced in the average pre-war year. The indications are for 20% more potash production in 1944, but after dividing with Canada, Cuba, Central America and some domestic industries, there will be a shorter supply for agriculture, but it will be only a relative

The dormant season is at hand and growers are getting ready for another great year. Every effort will be made to break all records, for in these days food fights for freedom. Dow insecticides and fungicides played an important part in record fruit production of past seasons. For the all-out effort of 1944, you will again rely on these dependable products. As a reminder we call attention to your Dormant Spray requirements. There is nothing for these purposes more effective and economical than Dow Dormant Sprays.

START RIGHT WITH DOW PRODUCTS

Checking over materials you'll need for the dormant period—and for the pre-blossom stages too—be sure you are well supplied with time-tested Dow products. They are relied upon wherever good fruit is grown.

DN-Dry Mix (Wettable) is an outstanding dormant spray for control of aphis on apples, pears, cherries, currants and plums. DN-Dry Mix may be used with water alone for aphis or with emulsible oils for control of scale, red mite and bud moth as well as aphis.

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"Mike" Sulfur and Dow Dry Lime Sulfur—You'll need these powerful fungicides to protect your trees against scab and other fungous diseases. Consult your state experiment station and the Dow dealer in your locality.

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reduction. A new source of nitrogen fertilizer is through ammonium nitrate produced almost wholly in Government plants in the United States and Canada. The old crystalline form was chunky and crude. A new form known as nitropriles consists of pellets which are wax-coated then covered with a dust which almost entirely prevents caking. The material contains 32½% nitrogen. It is slightly cheaper per pound, but is more economical due to increased nitrogen content so only half as much material is used. The material is about equivalent to a 50-50 mixture of nitrate of soda and sulfate of ammonia, the ammonia nitrogen and nitrate form nitrogen being about equal. It increases soil acidity slightly, but only one-third as fast as does sulfate of ammonia. There is little danger of explosion, at least no more than in use of nitrate of soda. Empty bags should not accumulate around buildings, but should be burned or washed very thoroughly.

President Stanley Fulton in his address mentioned the fine work of the national apple organizations in connection with ceiling prices, etc., and asked growers to seriously support these organizations. He paid tribute to the Extension Service, University of Maryland for its help in labor problems which would have been serious without this help. He warned growers to buy packages immediately, as there was a shortage expected.

Dr. A. L. Schrader, University of Maryland, discussed peach varieties, old and new. He advised no expansion plantings, but replacement plantings on good land only. He said that thirty years ago a Maryland bulletin listed two hundred and twelve varieties, but only Elberta and Georgia Belle have survived. Since then Red Bird, Hale, Hiley and Brackett have come in for some commercial planting. Dr. Schrader explained that Elberta was still popular because it was a good shipper, but it had no other high qualifications. He analyzed some of the newer varieties, with good and bad points, saying that the variety list is always changing, as new ones come in, replacing weaker varieties. Some varieties have not been fully tested in Maryland. He found Raritan Rose and Cumberland too soft for shipment; Triogem tending to run small in size; Newday probably replacing Jubilee which has a soft suture; Goldeneast lacks hardy buds, and ripens too near Halehaven, so Vedette is placed higher, and also has fine quality for canning and freezing; Sunhigh looks good; July Elberta tends to rot badly; Summercrest lacks color: Rio Oso Gem is a good late peach, but the tree may be small. Peaches much later than Elberta are likely to be injured considerably by Oriental moth. Dr. Schrader described the new Redskin peach, originated at Maryland Experiment Station fourteen years ago, ripening just before and during Elberta. The Redskin is being introduced to the trade, this year. This peach has many qualities far above Elberta. Trees are not available, but propagating wood may be obtained in limited quantity. The speaker cautioned growers not to plant heavily in new varieties until they had been tested in the State by responsible persons. Almost 20 varieties have been tested at Maryland Station since 1929. Dr. Schrader's rating of peach varieties follows:

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September 10-15), fertilized well, and kept growing in spring until it develops bulk, but turned under, mowed or disked down thoroughly before the cover crop competes with the trees. This deadline should be about April 10. This may mean that in some years the cover will not provide as much woody material as is desired. However, on such soils, particularly in dry spring, we have to sacrifice woody bulk. We can compensate for this by allowing crop to attain full maturity in years when crop is lost by freeze. Italian rye grass has fibrous roots which hold the soil well but makes poor growth in cool weather so is no good on shallow soils and must be turned down early to avoid moisture competition with the tree. It may be adapted to deep soils on steep slopes. *Mouse Damage* was also found as a cause of "sick" trees. This injury may not show up immediately, as the trees may have sufficient material stored up to delay appearance of injury for a year or more. Dr. Haut also advised growers to watch for sick trees, and remove them if they show serious disease symptoms. He found no evidence of disease having come in on nursery stock.

Mr. Carroll Miller told of some new apple publicity work by Appalachian Apple Service, describing a new apple nutrition booklet which explains the development of an apple. First, there is the blossom composed of tissue, air and water—beautiful and fragrant and filled with nectar. The bees cooperate by pollenizing the apple and also get food. The apple then turns green and sour, then sweet and fragrant and develops a red or yellow color. Then it ripens and softens, since it contains 84% water. It is now ready to eat and so spread its seeds. The apple is one of our best dentrifices, removing 96% of the offensive bacteria from the teeth, as compared with the removal of 67% of such bacteria by the best chemical dentrifrice and brush. The apple furnishes bulk, ash, minerals and vitamines, with pectin as a healing agent to the intestinal tract. Mr. Miller stated that in 1943, Appalachian Apple Service had worked vigorously with price ceilings, adjusting difficulties and holding conferences with the result that hard, fast work by the Service, assisted by growers had given ceilings much better than those first proposed. He outlined the formation of regional apple publicity organizations and their close tie-in with the national apple organization. He also stated that much advertising space was used in newspapers, magazines, and radio. Thousands of color cards, booklets, cookbooks, and dealer and grocer handbooks were distributed, and a lot of good color work was done by cereal companies, advertising fruit in connection with cereals. He told of the prospect of eighty million bushels of peaches and fifty-two million bushels of apples in prospect for 1944, and stated that plans were going ahead to line up grocers and dealers, and to work a vigorous campaign of publicity for these fruits, stressing the home-canning angle.

Dr. I. C. Haut, discussing apple varieties stated that Maryland and neighboring States are in good position for post-war with the varieties which compose the present plantings. Tracing changes for the past 25 years, and dividing varieties into Early, Early Winter, Intermediate and Late, he showed the decline of Duchess, North-

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western, Maiden Blush and many others, also of Ben Davis, Baldwin, Newtown, Willow Twig, and to a lesser extent, Winesap and other *late* varieties. Yet, production has not decreased materially as there has been tremendous increase of Delicious, McIntosh, Jonathan, and in lesser extent, Golden Delicious, Cortland, etc., all coming in the Early Winter class. In 10 years there has been increase of about 18 million bushels of these varieties that must be moved within 3 to 4 months after harvest. These conditions will increase and production of some late varieties as Baldwin, Newtown and later, Winesap, will decrease rapidly, further complicating marketing and storage conditions. Unfortunately, most of these congested varieties are one-purpose apples, mostly adapted to dessert purposes. Decrease in national production may not help much as these varieties will be last to decline, since trees are fairly young. Dr. Haut concluded that Marylands plantings of Stayman, York, and Rome placed our growers in favorable position with dual-purpose, good-keeping, high-yielding varieties, and only a lesser amount of Grimes, Jonathan, Delicious and Golden Delicious to cause congestion in our marketing seasons.

Mr. John Hamlet, U. S. Fish and Wild Life Service, reported that there were seven kinds of mice in Maryland, but only two kinds cause orchard damage. One is the meadow mouse or field mouse. This mouse makes shallow burrows. It produces litter of seven to eleven young every twenty-one days, or about one million young mice per pair a year. These mice generally dont like apple bark, but weather and food shortage changes their food habits so they may damage trees only in certain seasons. These mice have been near peak population, and with food shortage due to drought, their injury to trees has been serious. Mr. Hamlet described the use of apple cube bait covered with zinc phosphide powder. He stated that phosphorus was an attractant, but if too much bait was used the mice would be repelled. Another serious mouse is the pine mouse which builds its nest under any kind of trees to avoid predators, and for better drainage. Its burrows are underground, but there are breather-holes to the surface, at intervals. These mice may be controlled by the zinc phosphide-apple cube bait by using these breather holes. First, kick the dirt loose at the hole, and cover with a small board or eighteen inch square of tar paper. If the burrow runway is being used, the mice will repair it. Examine it next day and if repaired, place two apple cubes in the breather hole, being careful to keep bait from getting covered with dirt. In a few days, lift the paper, and again kick the dirt loose. If the mice have not been killed the runway will be repaired, so must again be baited. These mice may damage only one root of the tree per year, so the damage may not show up immediately and the tree may be badly injured before we see the effects. Zinc phosphide loses its strength after about one weeks exposure of bait. It is not seriously dangerous to larger animals, but dogs may die after eating mice killed by the bait. It is best to keep all animals out of the orchard for a few days after bait is put out. In orchards where there are many drop apples, try using a dry grain bait. Usually, however, the mice prefer a moist bait, apple being the favorite, with carrot next and sweet potato third in preference.

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at Picking Time

Spray plans for the 1944 campaign against Codling Moth and Scab are being "put together" right now by forward-thinking fruit growers. Their planning is along practical and well-studied lines. It will take in *only* the spray materials that have been shown to be dependable in control efficiency ... and the importance of avoiding foliage injury will never be overlooked for a moment. The chances are that these growers will get top quality finish and yields. *Consistently through the years growers of outstanding crops throughout America have found that it pays to rely on Orchard Brand!*

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With the *Patented Sodium Thiosulfate* feature that puts an "extra wallop" in scab sprays.

... Foremost among the nation's commercial growers due to "stand-out" orchard performance.

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LEAD ARSENATE

Standard, also "Astringent" which has been gaining wide preference due to advantages of exclusive astringent feature.

... Nicotine Sulfate will probably be called for in more 1944 apple spray schedules than ever before. Fruit growers know from experience that there is none better than ...

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Henry Miller, Jr., Fruit Grower, Paw Paw, W. Va., was of the opinion that this country had suffered an operation in which its internal freedom had been removed, and had survived because we are a tough people. The regulatory officials are looking at apples in a practical way, and we can expect price regulation. Package shortage and a heavy crop will probably mean no set-aside orders this coming year. With a heavy crop, there may be some Government support prices. He looked for an unlimited demand for apples, to feed our own people and those of liberated countries. He predicted a probable improvement in labor supply, if war industries release some of their labor. The package supply will be tight, packing costs higher, and Mr. Miller suggested a total increased production cost of 10 to 15%. He urged growers to prepare for ceiling prices, and to have some figures to enable growers to get what they deserve but no more. He urged growers to support Appalachian Apples and National Apple Institute as organized grower representatives. He reported several new things on the orchards of his company. First, they built a pre-cooler, and spent their full time in picking only, using several thousand field crates for storage. Later they packed this fruit out of the cooler. This spread their labor and held their good men. To hold labor, they built or rented houses, now having twenty-seven houses for their laborers. They paid a bonus based on company earnings.

Mr. Paul Nystrom, Extension Service, University of Maryland, in charge of farm labor program in Maryland, during the past season, predicted that with a larger crop there would be a tight labor situation. There were six thousand farm laborers available during 1943, including Bahamans, boys, girls, women, State prisoners, British sailors, American soldiers and Coast Guardsmen. There was a total of 125,000 placements and eight labor camps and placement labor centers. Transient labor was housed in camps, tents, school-houses, etc. The peach and apple labor in Washington County was a real problem. The county agent and grower committees got together, exploring hotels and tourist camps. War prisoners could not be obtained, as they were prohibited from working within the Coast Defense area. About one-half the imported Bahaman labor was used in Maryland, doing well in the vegetable areas, but not too well in the fruit harvest. Hancock growers finally got an abandoned C. C. C. camp for laborers, and Smithburg growers moved some buildings from a Virginia C. C. C. camp, and financed the venture. In some sections, the imported labor made local labor do better work. For 1944, the imported labor problem is uncertain. There is no chance of southern labor coming in, but possibly more responsible recruiting may be a help. Maryland is sending colored labor to Florida, hoping that Florida will reciprocate. Plans are being made for some type of mobile camps, probably trailers, and Baltimore school children may fill these camps. The tide of war may help ease the labor situation, but this is uncertain. Possibly war prisoners may be obtained but in any event all labor sources are being scouted, and growers should not be pessimistic.

Dr. Castillo Graham, Extension Entomologist, University of Maryland, reported the rotenone supply will be about three million pounds

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Cryolite (natural)
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For soil treatment, use

"Triangle" Brand Commercial Flour Sulphur
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short for 1944. Some pyrethrum will be allotted to agriculture. Nicotine supply will be about the same as 1943. Lead arsenate and calcium arsenate should be adequate in supply, but will tax the manufacturers. Cryolite is ample and sulfur will be sufficient if labor and transportation are available. Copper sulfate is not to be increased, and is on a quarterly basis, so should be ordered early. Dr. Graham reported more codling moth last season than in 1942, and suggested that growers increase their efforts of control, using oil and nicotine in these years of good prices, to overcome higher control costs. He also stated that the 1944 spray calendar for Maryland will omit the wettable sulfur in the second and third cover sprays for apples, and will substitute ½ pound of zinc sulfate unless bitter-rot and blotch diseases are serious at the time. In the peach calendar, where no lime was used in the second and third cover sprays, in 1943, it will be recommended that amounts of sulfur equal to the amount of wettable sulfur be added in the 1944 sprays.

Dr. W. S. Hough, Entomologist, Winchester (Va.) Research Laboratory, outlined the developments in codling moth control, recounting the doubling of the number of sprays applied yearly as compared to 1921. The volume of spray per tree has increased from three to five times. Pumps are larger, dosage has increased greatly, and materials are much better in fineness. Stickers have come into use and supplementary measures such as scraping and banding trees, removal of props from the orchard, screening of sheds and storing of baskets in tight rooms, have been practiced. In 1943 there was heavy damage from moth, due to warm, dry weather, and the older larger trees offered more hibernation places. Eggs were laid nearer the fewer apples and each apple had more chance of becoming injured. Dr. Hough had found that codling moths are getting tougher, as moths from sprayed and unsprayed trees differed in poison tolerance. The more vigorous and hardy ones stick to apples better and can even stand starvation better. He had bred up moths from unsprayed trees until their worms were more hardy to spray materials. Also there was a decrease of hardiness in generations on trees where number of sprays was reduced. The hardy worms were also hardy to other sprays beside lead arsenate. We can control moth but it will take some real work. We may develop better sprays for control, but insects won't stay knocked out. Dr. Hough suggested the use of nicotine and lead in first and second cover sprays, with oil added if necessary. Dr. Hough described a small mask to be used by spraymen when nicotine sprays are being applied. This mask is manufactured by Mine Safety Appliance Co., Pittsburgh, Penna., the price being $5.00 for Comfo Model with GMA cartridge.

Mr. Fred Motz, Foreign Commodity Specialist, U. S. Department of Agriculture, stated that the world is small and he hoped that we would work as well together internationally after the war as at present. We must strive for friendship and trade, and must buy as well as sell to other nations to help spending power. There is a demand for American fruits abroad. We cannot depend upon South America for much sale as the people are poor and spending power, not population

The non-caustic dinitro normant spray containing no oil—ovicidal, and insecticidal. Indicated in control of Bud Moth, Rosy Aphids, Green Aphids and Grain Aphids.

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DINITRO SPRAY

YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO MOVE INTO A PEST-RIDDEN HOUSE!

You would insist on the house being given a thorough cleaning FIRST. Clean your orchard for the coming crop for the same reason.

Control these insects when and where they can best be attacked —in the dormant stage.

SPRAYS FOR THE DORMANT STAGE

KLEENUP

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DORMANT OIL

The dormant oil spray to control Red Mite, hatching Green Apple Aphids, Grain Aphids, Rosy Apple Aphids, Pear Psylla, Fruit Tree Leaf Roller, Oyster Shell, San Jose, Cottony Peach and Lecanium Scales.

Cleaning the orchard before the growth starts, gives later sprays far better opportunity to do a more effective job.

These dormant sprays are effective against the eggs and larvae of some of the most destructive pests that the American fruit grower has to contend with.

APLES, PEARS, PEACHES, CHERRIES

These are some of the most important fruits in our wartime fruit production program—and these sprays are particularly effective on these crops.

Ask your experiment station for recommendations, or consult an ORTHO fieldman in your area.

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FRUITS AND BERRIES NOT LUXURY FOODS

The older opinion of the public as well as Government officials that these fruits were not essential to the well-being of the public has suffered a set-back. At least England is clamoring for any fruits that make jellies and jams. They state that the daily servings of such preserved fruits have greatly improved the morale of their armed forces and civilians, making it possible for them to better withstand bombings and work longer hours in defense plants. The English people love their fruits and if these are supplied life seems more normal and there is more enthusiasm in work and production. There seems to be a feeling that the fruit growing industry will take a post-war boom. This should not prompt growers to expand their plantings unduly, but it would be good business to plant some new average for replacement of present plantings that are getting old and are possibly approaching the marginal production limit. This year, however, the shortage of nursery stock has prevented heavy planting.

READ THE ADVERTISEMENTS

Our advertisers believe in our industry and their patronage partly makes possible the printing of The Maryland Fruit Grower. Remember them when you buy. Tell them you saw their ad in this pamphlet. Show them we appreciate their interest in our organization and our business.

TRUCK TIRE WEAR AND SPEED

Tests of effect of speeds on tires recently conducted by Associated Transport, Inc., operating 350 motor vehicles, showed that motor truck tires wear out more rapidly when driven at a maximum speed of 35 m.p.h. than at 45 m.p.h. Also, the tests showed 107% more application of brakes at lower speed, increasing tire and brake-lining wear; 47% more gear changes at the lower speed and higher gasoline consumption.

BEES FOR POLLINATION

Growers desiring bees for pollination should write George Abrams, Department of Entomology, University of Maryland, College Park. Do this soon, so plans can be made to locate bees and plan for delivery.

MORE UNITED EFFORT

To work more closely in questions concernng the apple industry as related to winning the war, officials of National Apple Institute and International Apple Association have appointed a joint committee to work with Federal officials on problems affecting the industry.

Don't Stop Now

Save Kitchen Fats and Grease

Flatten Empty Tin Cans

Save Waste Paper

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Conserve - Save - Repair

Buy More Bonds

Be A Blood Donor

Let's Finish The Job

CODLING MOTH CONTROL

BEGIN WITH A TOXIC DORMANT SPRAY

What has a dormant spray to do with codling moth control?

A number of years ago one of our best known experiment stations put on an experiment with codling moth in their winter cocoons, treated with several sprays. The check showed 10 to 12% dead. Lime sulfur 12% dead. A self-emulsifying oil 9.9% dead. Oil emulsion 3% dead. Scalecide (1 to 15) 51% dead.

Why did more codling moth emerge where oil emulsion was used than the checks? Unless the oil is toxic to the insect it seems that the oiled cocoon increases the emergence.

There is much evidence to this trend. But the answer is to begin your codling moth control with a toxic oil spray—Scalecide. Follow through with the most effective cover sprays.

ADD POWER TO YOUR COVER SPRAYS

Fruit growers in the most heavily infested codling moth areas have demonstrated time and again that the addition of D-X to the regular codling moth arsenical schedule reduces stings and entries to a lower minimum than was ever believed possible.

Add D-X Nicotine, 1½ pints per 100 gals., to your regular spray at the peak of the moth emergence. Generally the first or second cover spray. Repeat as the larvae hatch about ten days later. Growers are getting maximum control by adding D-X Nicotine to two sprays for the first brood and two for the second.

Write for Pratt's Codling Moth Spray Schedule.

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